James A. Emanuel

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

Prepared by T. Michael Womack



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2000

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Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2003

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Collection Summary

Title: Papers of James A. Emanuel

Span Dates: 1922-1995 **Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1960-1995)

ID No.: MSS83268

Creator: Emanuel, James A.

Extent: 4,000 items; 12 containers containers plus 1 oversize; 4.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, and French

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Poet and educator. Appointment calendars, biographical material, correspondence, poems, interviews, material relating to poetry festivals and readings, anthologies and collections, subject files, teaching material, textbooks, and

writings by others relating primarily to James A. Emanuel's career.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Names:

Emanuel, James A.

Anderson, Keith O .-- Correspondence

Baker, Houston A .-- Correspondence

Bone, Robert--Correspondence

Bontemps, Arna Wendell, 1902-1973--Correspondence

Breman, Paul--Correspondence

Brooks, Gwendolyn, 1917- -- Correspondence

Davis, Benjamin O., 1880-1970 -- Correspondence

Davis, Ossie--Correspondence

Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963--Correspondence

Ellison, Ralph--Correspondence

Fabre, Michel--Correspondence

Franklin, John Hope, 1915- -- Correspondence

Fuller, Hoyt, 1923-1981--Correspondence

Gayle, Addison, 1932- -- Correspondence

Gross, Theodore L.--Correspondence

Hudson, Theodore R.--Correspondence

Lamotte, Nicole--Correspondence

Madgett, Naomi Cornelia Long--Correspondence

Madhubuti, Haki R., 1942-

Madhubuti, Haki R., 1942- -- Correspondence

Mane, Robert--Correspondence

McIver, Jean P., 1935-

Migrenne, Jean--Correspondence

Murphy, Beatrice M., 1908- -- Correspondence

O'Daniel, Therman B., 1908- -- Correspondence

Randall, Dudley, 1914- -- Correspondence

Suter, Anthony--Correspondence

Watson, Doug--Correspondence

Weixlmann, Joseph--Correspondence

Williams, John Alfred, 1925- -- Correspondence

United States. Army

City University of New York. City College -- Faculty

Université de Grenoble--Faculty

Brooks, Gwendolyn, 1917- Oral history interview

Emanuel, James A. Oral history interview Giovanni, Nikki Oral history interview Hughes, Langston, 1902-1967 Oral history interview Sanchez, Sonia, 1935- Oral history interview

Subjects:

African American arts

African Americans--Intellectual life

African American authors

American literature--African American authors

Cultural relations

Elections--New York (State)--Westchester County--Mount Vernon

Festivals

Poetry

Poetry--Periodicals

Publishers and publishing--Correspondence

Universities and colleges--France

Universities and colleges--New York (State)--New York

Occupations:

Educators

Poets

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of James A. Emanuel, poet and educator, were given to the Library of Congress by Emanuel in 1995 and 1996.

Transfers:

Sound and video recordings have been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status:

Copyright in the unpublished writings of James A. Emanuel in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, James A. Emanuel Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date T	Event
1921, June 15	Born, Alliance, Nebr.
1942-1944	Confidential secretary to General Benjamin O. Davis, Assistant Inspector General, United States Army
1944-1946	Staff sergeant, 93rd Infantry Division, United States Army
1950	B.A., Howard University, Washington, D.C. Married Mattie Etha Johnson (divorced 1974)
1953	M.A., Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

1954-1956	Taught at Harlem YWCA Business School, New York, N.Y.
1957-1983	Instructor of English (1957-1964), assistant professor (1965-1969), associate professor (1970-1972), and professor (1973-1983), City College of the City University of New York, New York, N.Y.
1962	Ph.D., Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1966	Developed and taught first course in African-American poetry at City College of the City University of New York, New York, N.Y. Defeated in election for seat on board of education, Mount Vernon, N.Y.
1967	Published Langston Hughes (New York: Twayne. 192 pp.)
1968	Published <i>Dark Symphony: Negro Literature in America</i> with Theodore L. Gross (New York: Free Press. 604 pp.) Published <i>The Treehouse and Other Poems</i> (Detroit: Broadside Press. 24 pp.)
1968-1969	Fulbright professor, University of Grenoble, France
1970	Published <i>Panther Man</i> (Detroit: Broadside Press. 32 pp.)
1971-1973	Visiting professor, University of Toulouse, Toulouse, France
1972	Published <i>How I Write/2</i> with MacKinlay Kantor and Lawrence Osgood (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 256 pp.) Met Marie-France Bertrand (née Plassard) in France
1975-1976	Fulbright professorship, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland
1978	Published Black Man Abroad: The Toulouse Poems (Detroit: Lotus Press. 76 pp.)
1980	Published A Chisel in the Dark: Poems Selected and New (Detroit: Lotus Press. 73 pp.)
1980-1981	Visiting professor, University of Toulouse, Toulouse, France
1983	Published <i>A Poet's Mind</i> (New York: Regents. 85pp.) Published <i>The Broken Bowl: New and Uncollected Poems</i> (Detroit: Lotus Press. 85 pp.)
1984	Retired; established residence in France
1987	Published <i>Deadly James and Other Poems</i> (Detroit: Lotus Press. 82 pp.)
1991	Published Whole Grain: Collected Poems, 1958-1989 (Detroit: Lotus Press. 396 pp.)
1992	Published <i>De la rage au coeur</i> with Jean Migrenne and Michel Fabre (Thaon, France: Amiot/Lenganey. 173 pp.)

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James A. Emanuel (1921-) span the years 1922-1995, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period between 1960 and 1995. The collection, which focuses on Emanuel's work as a poet and educator, consists of three series: General Correspondence, Writings, and Subject File. Included in the papers are appointment calendars, autobiographical writings, biographical material, correspondence, poems, transcripts of interviews, material relating to poetry festivals and readings, poetry anthologies and collections, subject files, teaching material, textbooks, and writings by others. The collection contains notes in shorthand as well as material in French. Additional papers may be found at the Jay B. Hubbell Center for American Literary Historiography at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

The General Correspondence series consists primarily of letters received and sent from poets, writers, editors, and publishers, most of whom were active in the promotion of African-American literature and culture in the second half of the twentieth century. Correspondents include Houston A. Baker, Robert Bone, Arna Wendell Bontemps, Paul Breman, Gwendolyn Brooks, Ralph Ellison, Michel Fabre, Hoyt W. Fuller, Addison Gayle, Theodore L. Gross, Theodore R. Hudson, Don L. Lee, Naomi Long Madgett, Robert Mane, Beatrice M. Murphy, Therman B. O'Daniel, Dudley Randall, Anthony Suter, Doug Watson, Joseph Weixlmann, and John A. Williams. Publishing houses and poetry journals are represented by *Black World, CLA Journal*, Free Press, Lotus Press, *Midwest Quarterly, Negro Digest*, and *Phylon*. Other prominent African-American correspondents include Benjamin O. Davis, Ossie Davis, W. E. B. DuBois, and John Hope Franklin. Additional correspondence with publishers, translators, illustrators, and individuals arranging poetry readings, including Keith O. Anderson, Nicole Lamotte, Naomi Long Madgett, and Jean Migrenne, may be found in the Writings series.

The Writings series includes writings by Emanuel and those by others. A poetry section among Emanuel's writings contains anthologies, collections, individuals' poems, material relating to poetry festivals and readings, and textbooks on writing poetry. Emanuel's first major editorial project, the publication of a collection of poetry by his mentor, Langston Hughes, is represented by only a small amount of correspondence following the theft of a trunk during the 1970s. Poetry collections by Emanuel represented in the series include *Black Man Abroad: The Toulouse Poems; Chisel in the Dark: Poems Selected and New; Panther Man*; and *Whole Grain: Collected Poems, 1958-1989*. A subsection containing individual poems reflects Emanuel's attention to detail. Multiple drafts of a given poem frequently reveal not only the creative process through alterations and corrections but also indicate the day, time, and location of composition as well as sources of inspiration, such as newspaper articles, opera tickets, photographs, and restaurant receipts. A subsection of material related to poetry festivals reflects Emanuel's involvement in these events. The poetry readings file chronicles his recitals in the United States and abroad. During his teaching stints overseas, Emanuel frequently served as a cultural ambassador for the United States to various European countries, particularly those in Eastern Europe behind the "Iron Curtain." The subsection on textbooks documents Emanuel's efforts to teach the craft of writing poetry.

The prose section in the Writings series consists primarily of an anthology, autobiographies, and transcripts of interviews

by and with Emanuel. The collaborative work of Emanuel and Theodore L. Gross documented in files labeled *Dark Symphony: Negro Literature in America* represents one of the first major anthologies of African-American prose. Emanuel's personal and creative life is revealed in material relating to his two autobiographical writings, *A Force in the Field* and "Snowflakes and Steel: My Life As a Poet, 1971-1980." Files documenting individual interviews by Emanuel with Gwendolyn Brooks, Nikki Giovanni, Langston Hughes, and Sonia Sanchez as well as those with him by Don L. Lee and Jean P. McIver provide insightful exchanges between one African-American poet and another. The section also contains material relating to articles, book reviews, speeches, and writings by others

The <u>Subject File</u> includes appointment calendars, biographical material, newspaper and magazine clippings, travel material, and files on African-American poets and writers. Emanuel's tenure as confidential secretary to General Benjamin O. Davis and as staff sergeant in the United States Army during World War II are documented in a military service file. His unsuccessful election campaign in 1966 for a seat on the Board of Education in Mount Vernon, New York, in 1966 is covered in a file by that name containing letters to Robert F. Kennedy revealing Emanuel's suspicions of covert racial harassment and telephone wiretapping during the campaign. Letters in the <u>General Correspondence</u> series to neighbor Ossie Davis in New Rochelle, New York, relate Emanuel's experience as an African American seeking election in a mostly white neighborhood during the mid-1960s. Material relating to teaching chronicles his career at the City College of the City University of New York as well as in Poland and France. Following his first Fulbright professorship in 1968-1969 at the University of Grenoble, Emanuel held two more teaching professorships in France and made numerous extended visits, eventually moving there permanently upon his retirement in 1984.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in four series:

- General Correspondence, 1948-1994, n.d.
- Writings, 1945-1995, n.d.
- Subject File, 1922-1995, n.d.
- Oversize, 1973-1982, n.d.

Description of Series

Container Series

BOX 1-4 General Correspondence, 1948-1994, n.d.

Letters sent and received with enclosed and related matter.

Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent, organization, or subject.

BOX 4-10 Writings, 1945-1995, n.d.

Background material, correspondence, notes, drafts, master sheets, and publicity relating to articles, autobiographical writings, book reviews, interviews, poetry anthologies and collections, speeches, textbooks, and writings by others as well as material relating to poetry festivals and readings.

Arranged according to writings by Emanuel and by others and therein alphabetically by type of writing, title, or name of author.

BOX 10-12 Subject File, 1922-1995, n.d.

Material relating to African-American poets and writers; appointment calendars; biographical, election campaign, and military service material; newspaper and magazine clippings; a scrapbook; and material relating to teaching and travel.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material, name of organization, or subject and chronologically therein.

BOX OV 1 Oversize, 1973-1982, n.d.

Publicity for poetry readings.

Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

Container	Contents
вох 1-4	General Correspondence, 1948-1994, n.d. Letters sent and received with enclosed and related matter. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent, organization, or subject.
вох 1	Allen, Samuel W., 1968-1973
	Amis, Lola Jones, 1970
	"A" miscellaneous, 1968-1981
	Baker, Houston A., 1972-1983
	Bank Street College of Education, New York, N.Y., 1969-1971
	Bell, Bernard W., 1961-1974
	Bone, Robert, 1966-1972
	Bonnet, Jean-Marie, 1978-1982
	Bontemps, Arna Wendell, 1962-1973
	Breman, Paul, 1960-1979
	Broadsides Critics Series, 1970-1975, n.d.
	Brooks, Gwendolyn, 1970-1974
	Brooks, Jerome, 1971-1977
	Burnett, Elizabeth A., 1986-1994
	Burrows, Vinnie, 1966-1968
	"B" miscellaneous, 1967-1983, n.d.
	City College of the City University of New York, New York, N.Y., 1971-1982, n.d.
	Coleman, Willie M., 1963-1980
	"C" miscellaneous, 1967-1980
	Davis, Benjamin O., 1952-1970

Davis, Ossie, 1966-1980

Dickinson, Donald, 1962-1968

DuBois, W. E. B., 1958

"D" miscellaneous, 1969-1980

Ellison, Ralph, 1967-1968

Etonde-Ekoto, Grace, 1972-1974

Evans, Charles J., 1968-1969

"E" miscellaneous, 1958-1974

Fabre, Michel, 1968-1978

Franklin, John Hope, 1981-1982

BOX 2 Fuller, Hoyt W., 1962-1981

"F" miscellaneous, 1966-1983

Gayle, Addison, 1966-1970

Gross, Theodore L., 1968-1972

"G" miscellaneous, 1961-1978

Haslam, Gerald William, 1968

Hudson, Theodore R., 1972-1973

"H" miscellaneous, 1962-1983, n.d.

Indiana University Press, 1969-1970

"I" miscellaneous, 1968-1969

Jackson, Blyden, 1970

Jeffers, Lance, 1970-1975

Jones, Carolyn, 1970-1972

"J-K" miscellaneous, 1963-1982 (2 folders) Lagarde, Fernand, 1978-1982

Lask, Thomas, 1969-1980

Lee, Don L., 1969-1975

"L" miscellaneous, 1951-1982

Madgett, Naomi Long, 1977-1990, n.d. (4 folders)

BOX 3

Mane, Robert, 1973-1979 For additional material see Container 7, Readings

Marks, Leonard M., 1962-1970

McCawley, Ghislaine, 1980-1984

McConochie, Jean, 1977-1978 For additional material see Container 7, Readings

Menarini, Gianni, 1966-1975

Midwest Quarterly, 1963-1966

Murphy, Beatrice M., 1948-1968

"M" miscellaneous, 1967-1989, n.d.

Neal, Larry, 1970-1971

Negro Digest/Black World/First World, 1969-1977

"N" miscellaneous, 1961-1980

O'Daniel, Therman B., 1967-1979

"O" miscellaneous, 1971-1977

Patterson, Raymond R., 1969-1983

Phylon, 1958-1981

"P" miscellaneous, 1965-1982, n.d.

Quinn, Edward, 1976-1979

Raetz, Martha, 1973-1978 For additional material see Container 7, Readings

Randall, Dudley, 1966-1976 (2 folders)

Resich, Christopher and Anna, 1976-1979

"R" miscellaneous, 1967-1981

Robinson, William H., 1972-1973

Smethurst, Stella, 1972-1981

Spady, James G., 1972-1983

Suter, Anthony, 1973-1994

BOX 4 "S-U" miscellaneous, 1958-1982 (3 folders)

Vinson, James, 1973-1981

"V" miscellaneous, 1967-1982

Walcott, Ronald, 1973-1976

Watson, Doug, 1981-1993

Weixlmann, Joseph, 1976-1979

Wilkins, Christopher See Container 7, Readings

Williams, John A., 1968-1970

Williams, Kenny J., 1972-1977

Woods, Hollis A., 1962-1972

"W-Z" miscellaneous, 1965-1981 (2 folders)

Unidentified, 1950-1981, n.d.

BOX 4-10 Writings, 1945-1995, n.d.

Background material, correspondence, notes, drafts, master sheets, and publicity relating to articles, autobiographical writings, book reviews, interviews, poetry anthologies and collections, speeches, textbooks, and writings by others as well as material relating to poetry festivals and readings.

Arranged according to writings by Emanuel and by others and therein alphabetically by type of writing, title, or name of author.

BOX 4 By Emanuel

Poetry

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Anthologies
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"Best of the Best," edited by Margaret Burroughs, 1982-1983

Langston Hughes, edited by Emanuel, correspondence, 1966-1967

Sixes and Sevens, edited by Paul Breman, 1962

Collections

Black Man Abroad: The Toulouse Poems, publicity, 1978-1983, n.d.

"Black Tender," draft, 1970-1973

Broken Bowl, publicity, 1983

Chisel in the Dark: Poems Selected and New

List, n.d.

Draft, n.d.

Book cover, n.d.

Publicity, 1980-1983

"The Chopping Block"

Lists, n.d.

Draft, 1988 (2 folders)

Biographical sketch and chronology, n.d.

BOX 5 De la rage au coeur

Text, 1987

Correspondence, Jean Migrenne, 1991-1995

Book review, 1992

Deadly James

Draft A, 1981-1990 (2 folders)

Draft B, 1987

BOX 6

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Correspondence, Nicole Lamotte, 1987-1995
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Panther Man

Printed version, annotated, 1970

Book review, 1972

"We Are Seven," draft with musical settings, 1988

"Whole Grain and Later Poems of James A. Emanuel," draft, parts I and II, 1995 (4 folders)

Whole Grain: Collected Poems, 1958-1989

Draft, 1989-1990

Master sheets, 1991 (2 folders)

Correspondence

Anderson, Keith O., 1988-1994

Madgett, Naomi Long, 1989-1992

Festivals

III Congresso de la Asociacion Española de Estudios Anglo-Norteamericanos, Santiago, Chile, 1979

Festac '77, Lagos and Kaduna, Nigeria, 1975-1980

Fougères Festival, Fougères, Belgium, 1989

Langston Hughes Festival, New York, N.Y., 1983

Liège Biennial, Liège, Belgium, 1990

Sarajevo's Poetry Days, Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, 1982

Individual poems

Ideas, 1972-1978, n.d.

Texts, ca. 1945, 1968-1980 (2 folders)

BOX 7 Readings

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Correspondence, 1971-1995, n.d.
                                   (10 folders)
                                 Publicity, 1973-1982, n.d. See Oversize
BOX 8
                              Textbooks
                                 How I Write/2, correspondence, 1971
                                A Poet's Mind
                                   Draft A, 1981
                                   Draft B, 1982
                                   Draft fragments and notes, 1981-1982, n.d.
                                   Correspondence, 1981-1987, n.d.
                            Prose
                              Anthology edited by Emanuel and Theodore L. Gross
                                 Dark Symphony: Negro Literature in America
                                   Book reviews, 1968
                                   Correspondence, Kenneth L. Kaiman, Thomas O. Gay, and Velery H. Webb,
                                   1967-1977
                                   Publicity, 1968
                              Articles and essays, 1945, 1976-1977, n.d.
                              Autobiographies
                                 A Force in the Field
                                   Background material, 1973-1974, n.d.
                                   Notes, 1993, n.d.
                                   Draft, 1993
                                     (2 folders)
                                   Draft fragments, 1993
```

Master sheets, 1995

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"Snowflakes and Steel: My Life As a Poet, 1971-1980"
                                   Background material, 1972-1982
                                     (2 folders)
BOX 9
                                   Draft, 1981
                                     (3 folders)
                                   Photographic supplement, 1981
                              Book reviews, 1971-1977
                              Interviews
                                 By Emanuel
                                   Brooks, Gwendolyn, 1970
                                   Giovanni, Nikki, 1970
                                   Hughes, Langston, 1960-1965
                                     (2 folders)
                                   Sanchez, Sonia, 1970
                                 With Emanuel
                                   Lee, Don L., 1970
                                   McIver, Jean P., 1990
                                   Unidentified, 1972, 1981
                                     (2 folders)
                              Speeches, 1970
                          By others
                            Breman, Paul, "Poetry into the 'Sixties," ca. 1968
                            Bone, Robert, "American Negro Poetry: On the Stage and in the Schools," 1967
                            Gottlieb, Lorri, poems, n.d.
                            Holdt, Marvin, "James A. Emanuel: Black Man Abroad," 1979
                            Hudson, Theodore R., "Abstract of From LeRoi Jones to Amiri Baraka: The Literary
                            Works," n.d.
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Labrusse, Hughes, Terrena l'arbre excessif, 1986
                            Madgett, Naomi Long, Exits and Entrances, 1978
BOX 10
                            Polo, Marco (1952-), Travel Nonsense and Love, 1989
                            Watson, Doug, unidentified essay, n.d.
BOX 10-12
                        Subject File, 1922-1995, n.d.
                          Material relating to African-American poets and writers; appointment calendars; biographical,
                              election campaign, and military service material; newspaper and magazine clippings; a
                              scrapbook; and material relating to teaching and travel.
                          Arranged alphabetically by type of material, name of organization, or subject and
                              chronologically therein.
BOX 10
                          African-American poets and writers
                            Baldwin, James, 1972-1980
                            Brooks, Gwendolyn, ca. 1968-1971
                            Dunbar, Paul Laurence, 1972
                            Ellison, Ralph, 1976
                            Gayle, Addison, 1975
                            General, 1961-1979, n.d.
                            Hughes, Langston, 1922-1977
                            Williams, John A., 1966-1967
                            Wright, Richard, n.d.
                          Appointment calendars
                             1979-1987
                               (2 folders)
BOX 11
                             1988-1989
                          Biographical material, 1968-1995, n.d.
                          Election campaign, Board of Education, Mount Vernon, N.Y., 1967
                          Military service, 1941-1952
                          Miscellany, ca. 1922-1995, n.d.
                            (3 folders)
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Scrapbook, 1935-1944, n.d.

Teaching material

City College of the City University of New York, N.Y., 1964-1984, n.d.

(2 folders)

BOX 12 University of Grenoble, Grenoble, France, 1968-1969

University of Toulouse, Toulouse, France, 1979-1980

(4 folders)

University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland, 1975-1976

Travel file, 1972-1984, n.d.

BOX OV 1 Oversize, 1973-1982, n.d.

Publicity for poetry readings.

Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

BOX OV 1 Writings

By Emanuel

Poetry

Readings

Publicity, 1973-1982, n.d. (Container 7)